Methodology Report:
A Longitudinal Study of Lone-parent
and Two-parent Families

NOVA SCOTIA
Community Services

The Family Mosaic

Methodology Report:
A Longitudinal Study of Lone-parent
and Two-parent Families

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Methodology Report

The Family Mosaic Project (FMP) follows a longitudinal design with data collections spanning a 20-year period from 1978/79 to 1998/99. The original sample consisted of mothers who gave birth to their first child in a Nova Scotia hospital between July 1978 and February 1979.[1] Because the objective of this research was to compare the effects of family structure on outcomes for mothers and their children, the sample was stratified to include comparable size groups of single and married mothers.[2]

Continuation Rates

The original sample consisted of 403 married and 416 single mothers. Response rates were 81 and 83 percent, respectively. Mothers who participated in the project were compared with mothers who did not participate in the project on the basis of age, education, and household composition. The only respondent bias detected was within the single-mother group. Among single mothers, those who refused to participate in the project were more likely to be living on their own, rather than with their parents.

Data collections were conducted when the children were 3 to 6 weeks, 9 months, 18 months, 10 years, and 20 years of age. The 10-year data collection included psychological and educational assessments for some of the children, as well as interviews with the mothers. Psychologists working on the project felt it was necessary to stratify by age as well as marital status to enable comparisons across four groups: married mothers 19 years of age or under, single mothers 19 years of age or under, married mothers over 19 years of age, and single mothers over 19 years of age at the time their first child was born. While there were sufficient numbers in three of the four groups, there were not enough young-married mothers to pursue this line of analysis. Therefore, an additional 70 young-married mothers were added to the study at the time of the 10-year data collection.[3] These mothers gave birth to their first child in a Nova Scotia hospital during the time period covered by the original sample selection.

Most of the attrition for both the single and married groups was due to difficulties in locating respondents rather than refusals. The following list tracks the number of participants over both the 10 and 20-year data collections.

	Married	Single	Total
unable to locate at time of 10-year interview	20	91	111
unable to locate at time of 20-year interview	10	29	39
refused 10-year interview	18	21	39
refused 20-year interview	16	11	27
child adopted before 10-year interview	0	11	11
child made a ward of the court	1	1	2
mother deceased prior to 10-year interview	0	1	1
mother deceased between 10- and 20-year interview	1	3	4
child deceased prior to 10-year interview	2	2	4
young person deceased between 10- and 20-year interview	3	1	4
mothers' interviews completed for 20-year follow-up	324	176	500
total	395	347	742

Because this project was designed to examine inter-related outcomes for mothers and children, the base sample for the 20-year data collection consisted of only those mother-child dyads that remained intact. Contact was

not pursued with mothers whose children had been adopted or made a ward of the court before 10 years of age. Likewise, we did not continue contact with families where either the mother or child was deceased. It was felt to be intrusive and insensitive to interview mothers or their sons/daughters under these circumstances. Thus, the original sample of mother-child dyads was reduced by 26 over the course of the 20 years of the project. Interviews were conducted with some mothers and sons/daughters who had very little or no contact with each other.

Participation Rates Over the 20-year Period Covered by the FMP

	Married	Single	Total
3 to 6 weeks of age	325	347	672
9 months	308 (95%)	327 (94%)	635 (94%)
18 months	295 (91%)	299 (86%)	594 (88%)

When the additional 70 teenage married mothers were added to the sample at the time of the 10-year data collection, this increased the total number of potential married respondents from 325 to 395. The total response rate was, therefore, based on 742 rather than 672.

10 years	346 (88%)	217 (62%)	563 (76%)[4]

As described above, 26 mother-child dyads were removed from the sample because of death or other circumstances. This reduced the potential respondents for the 20-year data collection to 388 married mothers and 328 single mothers.

20 years	324 (84%)	176 (54%)	500 (70%)

While there was little difference between the single and married groups in terms of refusal rates, there was a significant difference in attrition.

Within the married group:

- 324 completed the 20-year interview for a response rate of 83 percent
- 34 chose not to participate for a refusal rate of 9 percent
- 30 were not found for an attrition rate of 8 percent

Within the single group:

- 176 completed the 20-year interview for a response rate of 54 percent
- 32 chose not to participate for a refusal rate of 10 percent
- 120 were not found for an attrition rate of 36 percent

For the sample as a whole:

- 500 completed the 20-year interview for a response rate of 70 percent
- 66 chose not to participate for a refusal rate of 9 percent
- 150 were not found for an attrition rate of 21 percent

When we made contact for the 20-year interview, a number of respondents said they were pleased to hear from us again and commented on the value of the study for families in general.

- "I've really enjoyed doing this over the years. It gives me a chance to look back over my life."
- "I have enjoyed being part of the project and talking to the interviewers."
- "This study is long overdue. I hope for changes."

- "I hope this study will benefit families and particularly single-parent families".

- "I am happy to participate in something that will help children."

Information from the 1988 interview was compared for those who participated in the 1999 interview and for those who did not participate in the 1999 interview. Because results will be presented comparing outcomes for mothers within the four original age and marital status groups, it is necessary to know the extent to which observed differences or similarities may be affected by differential attrition. The following tables describe respondents and non-respondents for the 20-year data collection in the areas of: changes in marital status, relative mobility, education, employment, and income.[5]

	Single 19 and Under		Single Over 19	
Areas of Comparison	Participated in 1999 data collection	Did not participate in 1999 data collection	Participated in 1999 data collection	Did not participate in 1999 data collection
had changes in marital status before child was 10	86%	80%	78%	50%
moved at least once before child was 10	90%	88%	91%	94%
completed high school before child was 10	39%	21%	47%	50%
employed when child was 10	48%	40%	61%	50%

	Married 19 and Under		Married Over 19	
Areas of Comparison	Participated in 1999 data collection	Did not participate in 1999 data collection	Participated in 1999 data collection	Did not participate in 1999 data collection
had changes in marital status before child was 10	22%	25%	16%	22%
moved at least once before child was 10	80%	83%	69%	72%
completed high school before child was 10	42%	25%	80%	67%
employed when child was 10	45%	58%	66%	56%

The above tables demonstrate some differences between respondents and non-respondents that will need to be taken into consideration when interpreting the results for the FMP.

Among single mothers 19 and under, those who participated in the 20-year follow-up were:

- more likely to have completed high school

Among single mothers over 19, those who participated in the 20-year follow-up were:

- more likely to have married
- more likely to have been employed

Among married mothers 19 and under, those who participated in the 20-year follow up were:

- more likely to have completed high school
- less likely to have been employed

Among married mothers over 19, those who participated in the 20-year follow up were:

- more likely to be employed

Contents of Data Collections

The five data collections for the project covered different areas depending on the life-cycle stage of the family. The first three data collections were conducted within a relatively short time period, before the children were 18 months of age. These data collections were all conducted through personal interviews in the mothers' homes and included the following types of variables:

- baby's birth weight
- full-term or premature

- birth irregularities or defects
- mother's perception of baby's health
- mother's report of child's medical checkups
- mother's report of child's hospitalization
- mother's report of child's medical problems
- mother's age
- mother's ethnicity
- mother's family background, eg. one-parent, two-parent, blended, adoptive family
- background of social assistance use by mother's family
- mother's education
- attending school at time of pregnancy
- plans for continuing education
- perceived obstacles to continuing education
- employment at time of pregnancy
- employment after child was born
- job satisfaction
- employment plans
- opinion of working outside the home
- perception of community attitude toward single mothers
- size of living accommodations
- perceived adequacy of living accommodations
- household composition, eg. living alone, with spouse, with parents
- employment, education, and income of other household members
- receipt of social assistance
- preference to be employed or receive social assistance
- perceived adequacy of income
- sole caregiver or shared care giving for child
- isolation
- availability of short-term and long-term child care
- characteristics of fathers not living with child: employment, education, involvement
- perception of baby as easy or hard to care for
- mother's perception of having fun with baby
- perceived problems: money, isolation, health, housing, employment, education, child care

Interviews with mothers during the fourth data collection repeated some lines of questioning from earlier phases and provided additional information on changes in family structure, stability of living accommodations, interactions between mother and child, mother's emotional well-being, and life satisfaction ratings. The following list outlines some of the types of questions that were asked:

- number and duration of changes in residence
- size and type of residence
- satisfaction with accommodations
- number and duration of changes in marital status
- mother's education
- mother's continuation of education after child's birth
- perceived obstacles to continuing education
- mother's hours of employment
- mother's job satisfaction
- perceived obstacles to employment
- mother's spouse/partner's employment
- mother's emotional health
- loneliness and isolation
- availability of support for informal childcare
- use of physical discipline
- use of positive reinforcement
- criticism of child
- withdrawal from child when disapproving
- involving child in decision-making
- authoritarian style
- encouragement of independent thinking
- warm and relaxed relationship
- time spent with child
- extent to which caregiving is shared with others
- types and consistency of childcare
- difficulty finding appropriate childcare
- time child spends watching television, reading, playing with friends, and participating in organized activities
- mother's report of child's illnesses
- mother's report of medical treatment

- mother's report of hospitalization
- receipt of social assistance
- satisfaction with a variety of conditions: marriage, health, relationships, etc.
- changes in satisfaction in various areas since child was born

At the time of the 10-year data collection, a stratified random sub-sample of 223 children was selected for comprehensive psychological and educational testing. These children were relatively equally distributed across four groups: 55 children whose mothers were single and 19 years or under, 47 children whose mothers were single and over 19, 60 children whose mothers were married and 19 years or under, and 61 children whose mothers were married and over 19.

This sub-sample of children received the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children - Revised (WISC-R) to determine their intelligence quotient (IQ); the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test-Revised (PPVT-R) to determine their vocabulary; the Basic Achievement Skills Individual Screener (BASIS) to determine their current academic achievement in reading, math, spelling, and writing; the Beery Visual Motor Integration Test (Beery) to determine their level of hand/eye coordination; and the Piers-Harris Self Concept Scale (Piers-Harris) to determine their perceptions of self-image. All assessments were conducted by a psychometrist under the direction of a psychologist, and took place in the school that the child attended. The classroom teacher with the most contact hours was asked to complete the Achenbach Behaviour Rating Profile (Achenbach-T) to determine the child's behaviour relative to a range of behaviours, including social withdrawal, aggression, attention, and activity. As well, mothers were asked to complete the Achenbach Behaviour Rating Profile (Achenbach) to determine the child's behaviour as viewed by the mother in the areas of social withdrawal, activity, and aggression.

Interviews for the fifth data collection were conducted by telephone. Questionnaires for mothers included:

- education
- continuation of education since 10-year interview

- perceived obstacles to continuing education
- involvement in volunteer work
- employment history
- reasons for changes in employment
- type of current employment
- pension coverage
- sick leave
- hours of employment
- job satisfaction
- control over work
- perceived obstacles to employment
- experiences integrating employment and family responsibilities
- number and duration of changes in residence
- number and duration of changes in marital status
- partner's employment
- extent to which others shared child-rearing responsibilities
- perceptions of what was important in raising their son/daughter
- perceptions of what was helpful in rearing son/daughter
- difficulties during teen years
- perceptions of experiences with government services
- experiences with school system
- general health
- perceptions of health care
- perceptions of finances
- current household income
- opinions about education and child-rearing

Telephone interviews were also conducted with the sons/daughters who were 20 or 21 years of age at the time of the fifth data collection. Eighty-six percent (429) of the sons/daughters of the mothers who participated in the fifth data collection also agreed to participate. Interviews with these young adults included questions about:

- their first experience working for pay
- employment aspirations and expectations
- employment during junior high or high school
- highest grade completed in school

- reasons for leaving school if high school not completed
- employment history since leaving or completing school
- perceived obstacles to employment
- type of current or most recent employment
- job satisfaction
- control over work
- salary
- hours of employment
- vacation time
- sick leave
- medical coverage
- pension plan
- experiences in school
- grade point average for last year of school
- preferred subjects
- assistance with school work from family members and/or tutors
- involvement in activities outside of school
- post-secondary education
- future priorities, aspirations, and expectations
- perceptions of health
- history of family structure
- income
- perceptions of school experiences
- social attitudes

In addition to the telephone interviews, both mothers and young adults were asked if they would be interested in completing some additional self-administered questions. For mothers, these additional questions included:
Rosenberg's Self-esteem scale (Rosenberg, 1965)
Spheres of Control (Paulus, 1983)
Index of Well Being (Campbell, Converse, and Rodgers, 1976)
Coping Responses Inventory (Moos, 1993)

For young adults, these additional questions included:
Rosenberg's Self-esteem scale (Rosenberg, 1965)
Spheres of Control (Paulus, 1983)
Index of Well Being (Campbell, Converse, and Rodgers, 1976)

Coping Responses Inventory (Moos, 1993)
NEO Five-Factor Inventory (Costa and McCrae, 1991)

Seventy-five percent of the mothers who participated in the telephone interview also completed this self-administered component of the project (N = 374). Sixty-eight percent of the young adults who participated in the telephone interview completed the self-administered component (N = 291).

The data for this project have been analyzed using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences).

Weighting of Sample

Three primary lines of questioning are followed throughout the reports.

1 What are the long-term effects of mothers original age and marital status on outcomes for both mothers and their children?

2 How do the consequences of entering lone parenthood later in life through divorce differ from the consequences of entering lone parenthood at the time of the child's birth?

3 What are the general forces affecting outcomes for mothers and their children?

Because the FMP sample was designed specifically to answer question number 1, weighting procedures must be used to address questions 2 and 3. The original sample included half married and half single mothers and additional young-married mothers were added at the time of the 10-year data collection. Analyses that are conducted within this original design do not require any weighting.

Addressing question number 2 requires appropriate age distributions within the married and single groupings. While mothers who were single when their first child was born were over sampled as a group, there was no disproportionate over-sampling within different age groups. Although Vital Statistics did not publish the age and marital status of the mothers by birth

order, a rough estimate can be formulated as follows. In 1978, 1,600 of the 5,581 first births were to mothers 19 years of age or younger. Among mothers who gave birth in 1978 and were 19 years of age or younger, 57 percent were not married (Nova Scotia Department of Health, 1978: 53-55). Thus, one could estimate that approximately 912 of the first births were to mothers 19 years of age or younger who were not married and 688, or 43 percent, were to married mothers who were 19 years of age or younger.[6] The remaining 3,981 first births were to mothers who were over 19 years of age. Among mothers who gave birth in 1978 and were over 19, 9 percent were not married and 91 percent were married. Thus, one could estimate 358 first births to mothers who were not married and over 19 and 3,623 first births to mothers who were married and over 19.

Therefore, the age and marital status distribution of mothers who gave birth to their first child in 1978 would be estimated as follows:

- 912 births to women who were not married an 19 years of age or under
- 358 births to women who were not married and over 19 years of age
- 688 births to women who were married and 19 years of age or under
- 3623 births to women who were married and over 19 years of age.
- 5581 total first births in 1978.

Weighting of Mothers' Data

The actual distribution of respondents for the 20-year mothers' telephone interview of the FMP was as follows:

- 96 had been single and 19 years of age or younger when their first child was born in 1978,
- 47 had been single and over 19 years of age,
- 94 had been married and 19 years of age or younger,

- 230 had been married and over 19 years of age,
- 20 had been common-law and 19 years of age or younger,
- 13 had been common-law and over 19 years of age.
- In total, 500 mothers responded to the 20-year mother's telephone interview.

Based on the Vital Statistics data from 1978, approximately 72 percent of the first births to not-married mothers were in the 19 or under age category. For both the original and final data collections of the FMP, 66 percent of single mothers were in the 19 or under age category. The actual 66 percent in the FMP is not far from the 72 percent estimated from Vital Statistics. Thus, only slight weighting is required to bring the FMP estimates in line with those derived from Vital Statistics.

For the purposes of comparing single, divorced, and continuously-married mothers:

- mothers who were single and 19 years of age or under were assigned a weight of 1.26.
- mothers who were single and over 19 years of age were assigned a weight of 1.00.

Weighting is more pronounced within the originally-married group because of the over sampling of young-married mothers. Based on the Vital Statistics figures presented above, approximately 16 percent of married mothers were 19 years of age or under when they gave birth to their first child. At the time of the 20-year data collection for the FMP, 11 percent of the original married respondents fell within this younger age group. However, the inclusion of the additional young-married mothers at the time of the 10-year data collection brought this final figure up to 29 percent. Therefore, more pronounced weighting was required within the married group.

Because both the divorced and continuously-married mothers are encompassed in the originally married group, the following weights are used for both of these groups:

- married mothers 19 years of age or younger received a weight of 1.00.

- married mothers over 19 years of age received a weight of 2.14.

In addition to the married and not-married categories considered by Vital Statistics, the FMP distinguishes common-law couples. At the time of the original data collection for the FMP, these common-law couples were included within the not-married group, which means they were over sampled at the same rate as the single mothers. However, for the purposes of tracking the changes in marital status of these common-law couples over time it is necessary to include them within the married category, because some remained in common-law unions continuously and some separated. There were only 33 cases that fell into the common-law category so their inclusion or exclusion is unlikely to make a significant impact on the results. However, common-law couples have been converted from the single to the married category by accounting for their comparative selection within the total sample. A weight factor of 1.08 was assigned to the young-common-law group to move them into the young-married category. A weight of .90 was assigned to the older common-law group to move them into the older-married category.

Rather than comparing across groups, the third question refers to general estimates for the population as a whole. These estimates have been included throughout the FMP reports to provide policy makers with a general idea of the scope of particular issues. For the purposes of providing total population estimates, the common-law couples can be left within the single category where they were originally placed by both Vital Statistics and the FMP. Therefore, the single and common-law mothers receive the same weight for this procedure. Weighting for the mother's 20-year questionnaire is applied as follows:

- single and common-law mothers 19 years of age or under received a weight of 1.18.

- single and common-law mothers over 19 years of age received a weight of 1.00.

- married mothers 19 years of age or under received a weight of 1.09.

- married mothers over 19 years of age received a weight of 2.42.

Because all groups but the older married mothers are over sampled, the older married group requires the most weighting. While there is always some risk involved in weighting, this group of mothers that receives the highest weight is also the largest group with the highest response rate making estimates more reliable.

Different weights are also required for the mother's data when reference is made to data drawn from the first data collection, such as the mother's educational attainment when her first child was born. The additional young-married mothers were not added until the time of the 10-year data collection, therefore the young-married mothers' data for the original data collection requires a higher weight.

Data for both the 1978 interview and the 20-year interview is available for 434 mothers with the following marital-status distribution:

- 116 single or common-law mothers 19 years of age or under

- 60 single or common-law mothers over 19 years of age

- 28 married mothers 19 years of age or under

- 230 married mothers over 19 years of age.

Due to the substantially reduced number of young-married mothers, the following weights are applied when referencing the mother's 1978 data in relation to the mother's 20-year data:

- single and common-law mothers 19 years of age or under received a weight of 1.18
- single and common-law mothers over 19 years of age received a weight of 1.00
- married mothers 19 years of age or under received a weight of 3.68
- married mothers over 19 years of age received a weight of 2.42.

Weighting of Data for 20-Year Olds

Discussions of the data for the young adults have been based on weights derived from the total births in 1978, rather than just the first births in 1978. This procedure is used to bring the information on the sons and daughters more closely in line with what could be expected of this total age cohort, rather than only the first births.

The total of Nova Scotia births in 1978 were distributed as follows:

- 1,095 births to women who were not married and 19 years of age or under,
- 937 births to women who were not married and over 19 years of age,
- 836 births to women who were married and 19 years of age or under, and
- 9,680 births to women who were married and over 19 years of age.
- 12,548 births in total.

Respondents for the telephone interview for the young adults were distributed as follows:

- 74 whose mothers had been single and 19 years of age or younger when they were born

- 39 whose mothers had been single and over 19 years of age when they were born
- 80 whose mothers had been married and 19 years of age or younger when they were born
- 211 whose mothers had been married and over 19 years of age when they were born
- 16 whose mothers had been 19 years of age and younger and who were living common law when this child was born
- 9 whose mothers had been over 19 years of age and living common law when this child was born.

The weighting for the young adults' data follows the same principles as those outlined for the weighting of the mothers' data. The following weights are applied when distinguishing differences across single, divorced, and continuously-married groupings.

- young people whose mothers were single and 19 years of age or younger received a weight of 1.00
- young people whose mothers were single and over 19 years of age received a weight of 1.61
- young people whose mothers were married and 19 years of age or younger received a weight of 1.00
- young people whose mothers were married and over 19 years of age received a weight of 4.36
- young people whose mothers were living common law and 19 years of age or younger received a weight of 1.14
- young people whose mothers were living common law and over 19 years of age received a weight of 1.72

Once again, the children of common-law and single mothers received the same weight for total group estimates.

- young people whose mothers were single or living common law and who were 19 years of age or under received a weight of 1.14
- young people whose mothers were single or living common law and who were over 19 years of age received a weight of 1.67
- young people whose mothers were married and 19 years of age or under received a weight of 1.00
- young people whose mothers were married and over 19 years of age received a weight of 4.16.

There were 371 young adults for whom both the mother's 1978 data and the young person's 20-year telephone-interview data were available. There were 22 rather than 80 young people in the group of married mothers 19 years of age or younger. Thus, the following weights are used when analysing the young adults' 20-year data with information derived from the mother's original 1978 interview.

- young people whose mothers were single or common law and who were 19 years of age or under received a weight of 1.00
- young people whose mothers were single or common law and who were over 19 years of age received a weight of 1.46
- young people whose mothers were married and 19 years of age or under received a weight of 3.18
- young people whose mothers were married and over 19 years of age received a weight of 3.65.

The weighting factors for the 20-year psychological instruments are provided in the Appendix.

Operational Definitions of Family Structure

Even though we often talk about one and two-parent families, such labels prove confining and often arbitrary when we take a closer look at the diversity that exists in real life. There is as much variation within as between these commonly-identified family types. For example, when defining one-parent families, a person may have:

- become a lone parent because they were not married when their child was born, because they were divorced after their child was born, or because they were widowed at some time during their child's life,
- had one or numerous episodes of lone parenting,
- been a lone parent for only a few months or over the entire time their children were growing up.

Reports for this project will use a number of different operational definitions of family structure depending on the application.

- In some instances, family structure will be defined for a particular point in time when the data were collected. For example, did children living in one and two-parent families at 10 years of age differ with respect to their participation in extracurricular activities?
- Outcomes for both mothers and their sons/daughters will be compared for families that were continuously two-parent, families that were one-parent because the child's parents were not married when he/she was born, and families that became one-parent because of divorce or death.
- Because family structure is not static, it is also important to examine outcomes for mothers and children using an operational definition of the percentage of time spent in a one-parent versus a two-parent family and/or the dispersion of time spent in a one-parent versus a two-parent family.

These different methods of defining one and two-parent families may be more or less useful in different contexts. For example, the effects of conflict may be more problematic for mothers who became lone parents as a consequence of divorce than for those mothers who had a child on their own. Financial strains may be more strongly influenced by the absolute amount of time spent in a one-parent family, regardless of how that one-parent family was formed.

Limitations of the Sample

The characteristics of the original sample design place parameters on the use of results.

- The sample does not include those mothers who were separated or divorced when their first child was born. However, this group was very small in 1978 and should not substantially affect final population estimates.

- Even though the young people's data has been weighted to more closely approximate the lives of all children, the data may be influenced by characteristics of first-born children.

- Because the original study design particularly focused on single mothers as an emerging family type, assessments of the roles and characteristics of fathers within the family unit are beyond the scope of this study.

- An assessment of outcomes for racially-visible groups would require increased sampling for these groups, and this was not part of the original design in 1978. While there were some racially-visible participants, there were insufficient numbers to permit separate analyses for these groups.

Summary of Key Points

There are a number of characteristics of this project that require attention when interpreting the results:

- The overall continuation rate for the 20 years covered by this project is 70 percent.

- The continuation rate is substantially better for mothers who were initially married (84 percent) than for mothers who were initially single (54 percent). This is primarily because it was much more difficult to continue to locate women who started child rearing as single parents.

- Descriptions of the population as a whole will be based on weighted data that adjusts for the over-sampling of the single and young-married groups. Results from this procedure should have a high degree of accuracy because the vast majority of mothers fall within the married group, for which there is an 83 percent response rate.

- Comparisons of attrition between the 10 and 20-year data collections show some biases between participants and non-participants for the 20-year data collection with respect to marital status, employment, and educational attainment. Such biases will be noted within the reports dealing with these subjects.

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Notes

1. This was a continuous sample collection that started with the first child born in July and continued until the total number was reached for both the married and single groups.

2. Some of the mothers were in common-law relationships when their first child was born. However, there were insufficient cases to give statistically reliable estimates for this group. Brief descriptions of the circumstances of those families that started out in common-law unions will be provided in the endnotes.

3. The new young-married mothers were somewhat more likely to be living in poverty than were the young-married mothers in the original sample.

4. The number of participants for the 10-year data collection differs from what was recorded in the Mothers and Children: One Decade Later publication because 5 extra interviews were completed after the analysis for that book had started.

5. These tables do not include women who started child rearing in common-law relationships.

6. Vital Statistics for 1978 do not provide breakdowns for first births by age and marital status. There is information on first births by age and all births by age and marital status. The proportionate distribution for all married and not-married mothers within age groups is used as an approximation of the distribution of married and not-married mothers for first births.

Appendix

Mothers' Weighting Factors for Psychological Assessments at 20-Year Interview

Total Population Estimates

	Single and 19 or Under	Single and Over 19	Married and 19 or Under	Married and Over 19	Common Law and 19 or Under	Common Law and Over 19
CRI	1.29	1.00	1.00	2.23	1.29	1.00
Locus of Control and Self Esteem	1.15	1.00	1.00	2.16	1.15	1.00
Life Satisfaction	1.18	1.03	1.00	2.10	1.18	1.03

Comparisons of Single, Divorced, and Continuously-Married Groups

	Single and 19 or Under	Single and Over 19	Married and 19 or Under	Married and Over 19	Common Law and 19 or Under	Common Law and Over 19
CRI	1.34	1.00	1.00	2.16	1.29	.96
Locus of Control and Self Esteem	1.23	1.00	1.00	2.08	1.15	.96
Life Satisfaction	1.22	1.00	1.00	2.04	1.18	1.00

Young Adults' Weighting Factors for Psychological Assessments at 20-Year Interview

Total Population Estimates

	Single and 19 or Under	Single and Over 19	Married and 19 or Under	Married and Over 19	Common Law and 19 or Under	Common Law and Over 19
CRI and NEO	1.61	2.04	1.00	5.00	1.61	2.04
Life Satisfaction, Locus of Control and Self Esteem	1.40	1.76	1.00	4.93	1.40	1.76

Comparisons of Single, Divorced, and Continuously-Married Groups

	Single and 19 or Under	Single and Over 19	Married and 19 or Under	Married and Over 19	Common Law and 19 or Under	Common Law and Over 19
CRI and NEO	1.00	1.47	1.00	5.22	1.61	2.13
Life Satisfaction, Locus of Control and Self Esteem	1.00	1.48	1.00	5.19	1.40	1.85